

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 COME-00 /016 W
----- 015473

R 241300Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6048

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECRC, MR
SUBJECT: CERT: FOREIGN ECONOMIC TRENDS REPORT (FET)

REF: STATE 177334

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON PROPOSED S/IG
RECOMMENDATION FOR FET. WHEN INSPECTORS MADE RECOMMENDATION THAT
NOFEKCHOTT BEGIN PREPARING GET AS PART OF CERP REQUIREMENT THEY
LOOKED ONLY AT BENEFITS AND NOT AT COSTS INVOLVED. EMBASSY WOULD
LIKE TO DO MANY THINGS THAT IT DOES NOT NOW HAVE MANPOWER TO
DO. TO DRAFT COMPLETE AND VALID ECONOMIC TRENDS REPORT FOR
MAURITANIA WOULD REQUIRE APPROXIMATELY ONE MAN-WEEK OF WORK.
REPORT HAS NEVER BEEN DONE BEFORE HERE; THUS IT IS NOT POSSIBLE
TO UPDATE PREVIOUS REPORT. CURRENT ECONOMIC DATA FOR MAURITANIA
ARE WOEFULLY LACKING. MAN-WEEK SPENT ON FET MUST NECESSARILY
BE TIME SUBTRACTED FROM OTHER PROJECTS NOW BEING DONE BY EM-
ASSY. (VERY TIGHT STAFFING OF THIS MISSION DOES NOT ALLOW
FOR SLACK OR FREE TIME. IN ADDITION, FET WOULD HAVE TO BE
PREPARED BY ONE OF TWO SENIOR OFFICERS IN STATE CONTINGENT.
INSPECTORS THEMSELVES NOTED AMBASSADOR AND DCM ARE AL-
READY FULLY OCCUPIED AND STRONGLY RECOMMENDED DEPARTMENT
INSURE ASSIGNMENT OF EXPERIENCED FSO-5 TO SUPPORT THEM
IN FUTURE.)

2. IF WASHINGTON END USERS BELIEVE THAT FET IS SUFFI-
ICIENTLY IMPORTANT THAT IT SHOULD TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER
CERTAIN OTHER EMBASSY ACTIVITIES, WE WILL BE HAPPY TO
COMPLY WITH REQUEST. BUT AT TIME WHEN REPORTING AND
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ACTION REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE DEPARTMENT CONTINGENT OF

MISSION ARE GROWING, DEPARTMENT CANNOT REASONABLY CONTINUE TO LEVY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS WITHOUT INCREASING SUBSTANTIVE STAFF OR ELIMINATING PREVIOUS REQUIREMENTS. IF DECISION TO LEVY FEE AS CERP REQUIREMENT IS FINAL, QUESTION OF DUE DATE IS NOT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FROM STANDPOINT OF EMBASSY. THERE IS NO INDICATION OUR STAFFING SITUATION WILL BE ANY BETTER SIX MONTHS OR EVEN TWELVE MONTHS FROM NOW THAN IT IS TODAY. GIRM ECONOMIC DATA ARE ALWAYS HARD TO LOCATE AND WE DO NOT FORESEE ANY IMPROVEMENT IN THIS SITUATION. EMBASSY WORKLOAD, ALLOWING FOR MINOR SEASONAL VARIATIONS, CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO INCREASE.

HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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